

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified patent application is hereby respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, and 15 have been canceled. Claims 4, 7, 9, and 13-14 are currently amended. Claims 4-5, 7, 9, 11-14, and 16-17 remain in the case.

A petition and Fee for Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and payment thereof for an extension is attached hereto.

Drawings

(Office Action Summary)

The drawings are indicated in the Summary (only) as being objected to. No reason is given in the instant Office Action. Accordingly, it is impossible to provide replacement drawing sheets. Perhaps this objection is an artifact from a previous Office Action. Four replacement drawing sheets (Figures 1-5), each of which were marked "Replacement Sheet" in the margin, were submitted in a Supplemental Amendment that was mailed on February 8, 2005. Those drawing figures

as submitted included any desired changes by the Examiner, including the alternating narrow and wide bars that were previously requested. If the Examiner should still require new or amended drawings for any reason, the applicant would be pleased to provide them.

Claim Objections

(Office Action pages 2-10)

Claims 3, 13, and 14 were objected to for the stated reasons. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claim 13, which depends from a currently allowable base claim, has been further amended to more positively recite and further define what is meant by the "second end".

Support for the instant amendment is inherent in the drawings and specification in that any element disclosed in a specification inherently has an opposite end and to rely on use of an opposite portion (i.e., that the second end is an opposite end) in a claim amendment can not constitute any addition of new matter.

Similarly, claim 14 which depends from a currently allowable base claim has been further amended to more

positively recite and define what is meant by the "distal end".

This Amendment After Final is a bona fide effort to amend the claims consistent with an indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner so that they are presently in condition of allowance. If the Examiner should, for any reason, continue to object to either claim 13 or 14, the applicant would be pleased to amend them further to the Examiner's satisfaction. Reconsideration of amended claims 13 and 14 is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the claims, except for 15, were rejected under 35 USC 102 and 103. Claim 15 was objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This is believed to have been accomplished. Accordingly, claim 4 is believed to be in condition of allowance and reconsideration of base claim 4 and of dependent claims 5, 7, 9, 11-14, and 16-17 is respectfully requested.

As all remaining claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 11-14, and 16-17 appear to be in condition of allowance, reconsideration

thereof is respectfully requested, and a notice of allowance is courteously urged at the earliest time.

The applicant notes that the rejection was made final and appreciates the opportunity to communicate by telephone with the Examiner, or the Examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley, if necessary. Please continue to direct all correspondence to the correspondence address and telephone as shown below. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Risto Rinne', followed by the date '11/13/05'.

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